



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius
PRESS RELEASE

Reshma Koomar to Participate in “Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary Educators”

Port Louis, June 4, 2014: Mrs. Reshma Koomar was selected for an intensive post-graduate level academic program entitled “Study of the U.S. Institutes for Secondary Educators (Administrators).” The program begins in the United States on June 4 and ends on July 10, 2014. Mrs Koomar is a Lecturer at the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE).

The program will provide a multinational group of 30 experienced secondary school teachers with a deeper understanding of U.S. society, education, and culture - past and present. The focus of the program will be on providing materials for participants to develop high school level curricula about the United States. Two such programs for secondary educators will be offered this June: one with a focus on classroom teachers and the other with a focus on experienced administrators, including teacher trainers, curriculum developers, textbook writers, Ministry of Education officials, and others. Each program includes a four-week academic residency component and a two-week integrated study tour.

The theme of the program in which Mrs. Koomar is participating is "Exploring Access and Equity in U.S. Education and Society." This particular program will focus on education, immigration, and civic engagement within U.S. society and culture. It will include an intellectually rigorous academic residency component, meetings with regional educators and prominent community leaders, guided independent research, visits to topically relevant sites, a two-week study tour, and the completion of a research project. The program will be hosted by California State University, Chico.

Holder of a B.A (Hons) in English, an M.A in International English Language Teaching and Applied Language Studies, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Inclusive and Special Education, Mrs. Koomar gives lectures in the English and Special Needs Departments of the MIE, writes programs, does program and subject coordination, carries out research and evaluation of teaching practices of trainee teachers, supervises dissertation/portfolio/major project work, performs training of pre-primary, primary and secondary school teachers, works on curriculum development, and writes textbooks. In July 2012, she presented a paper based on her research on Learning Styles entitled “A

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study of the relationship between academic achievement and learning styles of students with learning disabilities at Form I Level in the mainstream class” at the International Learning Styles Conference held in New York.

Mrs. Koomar is interested in carrying out research on the learning styles of children with disabilities and is currently studying the theory of “motivation” in the second language learning classroom. She enjoys learning new languages and is currently teaching herself Chinese.

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